

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the non-final Office Action dated April 7, 2008, and is respectfully submitted to be fully responsive to the rejections raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits and allowance are respectfully requested.

In the present Amendment, the Title of the Invention has been amended to recite "A Sliding Member for Recording Media."

Claims 1-11 are pending in the current application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging that claims 5, 7 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is allowable in view of the following remarks, and therefore the objection of dependent claims 5, 7 and 8 should be withdrawn. The following are Applicant's responses to the outstanding rejections.

I. Response to Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Based on Kasajima and Ito

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as assertedly being unpatentable over U.S. 2003/0007288 ("Kasajima") in view of JP 59-117756 ("Ito").

The Examiner's rejection is based solely on an English translation of the abstract of Ito. Particularly, the Examiner's position is that, although Kasajima fails to specifically disclose the limitation: "wherein the slidable substrate is a porous form comprising a plastic", Ito assertedly cures the deficiency because Ito teaches a sliding member comprising a porous slidable plastic substrate. According to the Examiner, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

art, at the time the invention was made, to manufacture a slider comprising a porous plastic, as taught in the Ito application. According to the Examiner, the motivation to do so is derived from the teaching in Ito.

Applicant traverses and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in view of the following remarks.

Applicant respectfully submits that Ito would not motivate one skilled in the art to modify the Kasajima invention, based on the teachings in Ito, to arrive at the present invention. The objective sought in the present invention is to obtain a sliding member having good sliding properties. To achieve the objective, Applicant uses a specific sliding member which suppresses exudation of the pressure-sensitive adhesive from the pores of the porous sheet. The slidable substrate comprises a substrate and a pressure sensitive adhesive.

Ito teaches a magnetic head that improves the wear resistance of a magnetic recording medium and the wear resistance of the slider of the magnetic head by using a plastic material that is impregnated with an oil, perfluoropolyether. The plastic material may include polyacetal, polyamide or the like. Accordingly, the head alleviates crushing and stabilizes the extent of flotation and generates little noise.

The difference between the subject matter in present claim 1 and Ito is that the slider in Ito is immersed in an oil to improve the wear resistance of the slider. Applicant submits that Ito does not teach or suggests a sliding member having a pressure sensitive adhesive provided on one side of the substrate. Thus, Applicant submits that Ito fails to cure the deficiencies of Kasajima.

Further, Applicant submits that Ito teaches away from the Examiner's proposed combination. In the case where low-molecular weight components, such as lubricant, antioxidant, and oil are used to impregnated a plastic material, it is well known that the low-molecular weight component exudes to the surface of the plastic material. This phenomenon is known as "blooming".

When the oil component is proactively used in a relatively large amount, as taught in Ito, the oil component induces "blooming". As a result, since the oil component intervenes between the plastic and an adhesive layer or the adhesive layer swells, there is a possibility of lowering of the adhesive property. Especially, when such oil component is an oil component having a small surface energy such as perfluoropolyether. In that scenario, lowering of the adhesive property is remarkable.

In general, it is not preferable to contact a sliding member with an oil component as taught by Ito. More importantly, since there is a concern that it is impossible to read data, the existence of the oil component is especially not preferable for media device as disclosed in Kasajima and in the present invention. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not combine Ito with Kasajima.

In this regard, a sliding member of the present invention can obtain a sliding property by characteristics of the slidable substrate, *per se*, without using the oil component. Further, the purpose of the present invention is to prevent such pollution (caused by exuding of the adhesive layer through the slidable substrate which is a porous form) by providing a barrier layer.

Even if the references were somehow combined, the combination would result in an inoperable combination for the reasons mentioned above.

Claims 2, 6 and 9-11 depend from claim 1 depend directly from claim 1 and are therefore patentable over Kasajima and Ito for at least all the reasons stated with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 6 and 9-11 be withdrawn.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Based on Kasajima, Ito and Takahashi

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kasajima and Ito, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,657,300 ("Takahashi").

Applicant traverses.

Claim 1 is patentable over Kasajima and Ito for at least the above-mentioned reasons. Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1 either directly or indirectly, and are therefore patentable over the art for at least all the reasons mention above, with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

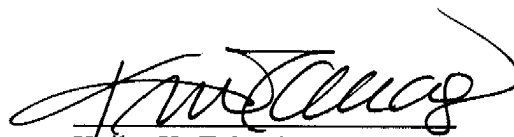
III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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